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Plague caused 2 deaths with 5 new cases, and at the close of the week there were in all 14 cases under treatment at the Hospital Paulo Candido, and 1 case under observation. Smallpox is steadily, but slowly, increasing. During the week it caused 136 deaths, the highest number it has reached this year, with 270 new cases, 12 less than last week, although there were 18 more deaths than during the previous week. Up to date this year there have been 3,489 cases reported, with 1,730 deaths. This is, of course, a very high percentage of deaths, but when one considers that they almost all occur in unvaccinated persons, i. e., persons who have never been successfully vaccinated, it is not so startling. I am inclined to think, that sooner or later, before the deaths occur, or before recovery occurs, all cases are reported, and that the number of cases reported is very close to the true state of affairs. The fine is so very high, and it has already been so often imposed since the new law went into effect that now, all physicians, even the charlatans, are reporting all cases of infectious and contagious diseases.

At the close of the week there were 370 cases of variola in the Hospital São Sebastião undergoing treatment.

There were no deaths from measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, choleraic diseases of children, or leprosy. Diphtheria caused 3 deaths; grippe, 12; enteric fever, 1; dysentery, 2; beriberi, 2; malarial fevers, 5, and tuberculosis, 44. Of the total number of deaths, 258 were males, and 180 females, 352 were natives, 81 foreigners, and 5 whose nationality was unknown. Fifty-six were among persons of less than 1 year of age; 72 from 1 to 5 years; from 5 to 10 years, 32; 10 to 20 years, 42; 20 to 30 years, 65; 30 to 40 years, 55; 40 to 50 years, 35; 50 to 60 years, 38; more than 60 years of age, 41; age unknown, 2.

The deaths occurred as regards location as follows: In residences, etc., 268; in civil hospitals, 114; in military hospitals, 3; in Station Casa de Misericórdia, 42; in asylums, convents, etc., 2; in ships in port, none, and in localities unknown to the authorities, 9.

The average daily number of deaths during the week was 62.57, compared with 51.42 during the preceding week and with 46.28 during the corresponding week of last year. The coefficient per one thousand of the population, estimated at 850,000, was 26.94; very high.

The highest range of the thermometer was on the 10th instant, 28.9° C., and the lowest on the 12th and 14th instant, 14.5° C., with a daily average of 19.78° C. There was no measurable rainfall.

Two of the cases of plague reported as being in the hospital at Paulo Candido came to that hospital from the city of Nictheroy, the capital of the State of Rio de Janeiro, and a city which lies just across the bay from this city.

### *Compulsory vaccination.*

A bill to make vaccination compulsory throughout the Republic of Brazil is now before the Congress. A local paper, speaking of the measure, says:

The feeling among the public is, however, strong against this measure—so strong, that even if it be passed, it will probably become a dead letter. Even in the most advanced countries, where the greatest precautions are taken to insure the purity of the vaccine, the advantages and disadvantages of vaccination are questioned. Here the feeling against it, even among the better classes, is intense.

It is not the opinion of those best informed here that the bill stands any real chance of becoming a law, at all events not at this session, although it is being pushed very strenuously by those interested in sanitary affairs.

*Sanitary service.*

Extract from message of the governor of the State of Amazonas to the State congress, read on the opening of congress, July 10, 1904.

Although the plague made its appearance in the neighboring States there has been no sign of it here, owing to the precautionary measures adopted by the authorities.

With this end in view the requisite material for the service was acquired, including an apparatus, stoves, pulverizers, autoclaves, etc.

The dispatch boat *Cidade de Manaus* was stationed at Parintins with a medical officer aboard instructed to disinfect every vessel intending to anchor in this port. In the capital the requisite prophylactic measures were executed with judgment and dispatch. During the last months of 1903, 3,759 domiciliary visits were made, 729 house drains were sluiced and disinfected with sulphate of copper, and lime was laid in the kennels.

Later on the municipality took over and still continues the service, and all the public buildings and hospitals are regularly disinfected every week to the number of 325. At the same time a good stock of serum and vaccine was obtained from Rio and from Paris.

The health of the capital is now the best possible, as will be seen from the demographic tables annexed to the report of the sanitary service, showing that the number of deaths during the last twelve months—1st of January to 31st of December—were only 1,772, inclusive of a not small number of deaths from fever patients coming from upcountry.

It is the opinion of the sanitary service, with which I concur, that the mortality in the capital is largely the effect of the wretched system of drainage, with regard to which I have been unable to do anything, owing to a preexisting contract, which the concessionaire will neither carry out nor abandon, having failed to raise the necessary capital. By decree 449 of December 30, last year, the department of hygiene has been divided into different sections, which are now thoroughly organized, and, with the new and perfect appliances with which it is provided, is now fully equipped to successfully combat any epidemic threatening the city.

The capital referred to is Manaus, a city with a population of about 38,720.

*Danger of sailing vessels becoming infected in port—Plague in Bahia and other localities—Mortality statistics—Transandine Railway.*

AUGUST 24, 1904.

During the week ended August 20, the following vessels left this port for United States ports and were inspected by me, and issued bills of health by this consulate:

On the 14th instant the British steamship *Tintoretto*, for New York, with 6 cabin and 21 steerage passengers, a cargo of coffee, and no change in the personnel of the crew; on the 16th instant, the British steamship *Pilar de Larrinaga*, for New York, with a cargo of coffee and no passengers, and no change in the personnel of the crew while here; on the 19th instant the Norwegian steamship *Progress*, for Philadelphia via Barbados, with a cargo of manganese ore, one passenger, first class, and 3 new members of the crew taken on at this port, all of whom had been on board at least 10 days before date of sailing; on the 20th instant the British steamship *Tolosa*, with a cargo of manganese ore for Baltimore, no passengers, and no change in the personnel of the crew while in this port.